

In 1980, Lois T. (Norton) Curtis graciously allowed the author and Donald W. Powell to borrow and make xerographic copies of a large quantity of historical documents in her collection. All of those documents were copied and returned by the Brothers Powell to Lois Curtis in 1980, and were in Lois Curtis' document archive at the time of her death on May 27, 1981. Among those documents are three typewritten pages of information about the Banning family, a typescript of which, by S. Robert Powell, is given below. Note: Eliza Banning married, on March 13, 1824, Rev. Henry Curtis.

BANNING

John and Mary Banning of the city of Reading, Berkshire, Eng., came to this country in the year 1818, and settled in the city of New York.

Mary, his wife, was married to him at the age of sixteen, and he was then a widower with grown up children. His business was that of a shoe manufacturer, and he employed quite a number of workmen. He was a modest, unostentatious man, and highly esteemed by his friends and neighbors, as was shown by the attention paid him as he with his oldest son stood on the rear of the stage ready to depart from his town, to sail for America. The street was filled with people who gathered to pay their last respects to him, and the picture of his figure as they moved away waving an adieu, was vivid to his oldest daughter Eliza, who after a period of 60 years related the incident with emotion to her children. He came over with his oldest son (John) and the remainder of the family (wife and nine children), came in the same vessel on its next trip. He was seven weeks on the water, and the rest of them five. Sailing vessels then only were known. (A letter written by him on his arrival at New York and sent back to his wife, is still in possession of some of the Olivers, and a copy would be exceedingly interesting to insert here.) Also a view opposite the home in Reading painted by Frederick Scatcherd, and presented to Eliza Banning, but now in possession of her daughter, Mrs. E. P. Haight.

Of John Banning's antecedents nothing is known. Mary Banning was of noble birth. The great great grandfather was Lord Arthur Hamblin, who engaged in a rebellion against the government, the actual fight occurring Oct. 5th, 1715. He owned a large estate which was confiscated on account of the above mentioned facts.